



# INTERNATIONAL COTTON ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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## 25<sup>th</sup> CSITC Meeting, 30 October 2016 Islamabad, Pakistan

### Report

The 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force on Commercial Standardization of Instrument Testing of Cotton (CSITC) was held on 30 October 2016 in Islamabad, Pakistan, on the margins of the 75<sup>th</sup> ICAC Plenary Meeting.

#### Members present:

Andrew Macdonald, AMCON Consulting, representing ABRAPA, Brazil, and Chair of the Task Force  
Fatih Dogan, Turkey  
Axel Drieling, Faserinstitut Bremen e.V., Germany\*  
Mohammed Negm, Cotton Research Institute, Egypt  
Peter Wakefield, President, Wakefield Inspection Services, Inc.

#### Members Absent or Sending Regrets:

Mariana Carfagnini, Argentina  
Darryl Earnest, Deputy Administrator, Cotton Program, USDA/AMS, USA  
Jean-Paul Gourlot, Director, CIRAD PERSYST LTC, France  
Urania Kechagia, NAGREF, Cotton and Industrial Plants Institute, Greece  
James Knowlton, Chief, Standardization & Engineering Branch, USDA/AMS, USA  
Patricia Marino, Argentina  
B.K. Mishra, Chairman cum Managing Director, Cotton Corporation of India, India  
Gregory Parle, Chair of the Australian Cotton Classers Association, Australia  
P.D. Patodia, India  
João Luiz Ribas Pessa, Director, Abrapa, Brazil  
Jolly Sabune, Managing Director, Cotton Development Organization, Uganda  
Suzan Sanad, Cotton Research Institute, Egypt  
René van der Sluijs, Australia  
Hakim H. Umarkhojayev, General Director, SIFAT, Uzbekistan  
Bruno Widmer, Switzerland

#### Observers:

Rafiq Chaudhry, ICAC  
Shiou-Chung Steven Chen, Taiwan  
Karsten Froese, Germany\*  
Sirelkhatim Ahmed Hassan, Sudan  
Gervas Kaisi Mwanjabala, Tanzania  
Terry Townsend, USA  
Hisao-Chin Judy Yang, Taiwan

José Sette served as Secretariat.

\*Attended using teleconference facilities.

## Report of the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting

### 1. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

1. The CHAIR welcomed all the members present and thanked them for their presence. He also welcomed the Observers and reminded them that membership was open to all, and those interested should apply to the ICAC Secretariat. The CHAIR inquired if there were any proposals for changes or concerns regarding the agenda, and seeing none found that it was approved.

### 2. Report on Latest Round Trial Results and Comparisons

2. Mr DRIELING reported on the latest Round Trial results, which covered the third quarter of 2016. Participation, in terms of the number of labs and instruments taking part in Round Trials, remained stable since 2012. The evaluation of combined properties continued to improve and show reduced variations among instruments, signifying that tests results are becoming more consistent all over the world. No improvement had been observed before 2012, which was probably a consequence of a strong increase in the number of participating labs. Since 2015, the evaluation parameter has consistently been below 0.4. The results for the first three quarters of 2016 were 0.37, 0.36 and 0.36, which were very low levels in historical terms.

3. The CHAIR inquired as to the convenience of displaying results in categories, such as spinners, controllers, and so on.

4. Mr DRIELING replied that such a step was desirable only to a limited extent, since not all information is given and the preservation of anonymity was important to encourage participation in the Round Trials, but promised to give a broad overview next time.

5. The CHAIR congratulated Mr Drieling and all those involved in the Round Trials for the impressive progress shown since the launch of the program.

### 3. Presentation of RT 2016-3 with Results of the Trash Value Evaluation Based on Parameters Fixed in Mumbai and Bremen

6. Mr DRIELING presented an overview of the work on trash value evaluation. For the general evaluation, the results of each instrument are evaluated on six properties (micronaire, strength, UHM length, uniformity, color Rd and color +b), which are then compared with reference results. The findings are then divided by a scale value, which represents an allowed tolerance. The Summary Evaluation consists of an average of these six properties. During its 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the CSITC had agreed on calculating according evaluation results for Trash Area and Trash Count, but without including them in the Summary Evaluation result of the six properties. For the evaluation it was agreed to adapt the trash reproducibility tolerances used by the US Department of Agriculture (formula instead of constants) to CSITC. Of the 148 instruments participating in the Round Trials, 95 (64%) were participating in the trash evaluation program. The results showed that the chosen scale formulas are suitable and provide evaluations on the same level as the official parameters. In addition, the trash evaluation of single instruments does not deviate significantly from the evaluations of official parameters.

7. In the ensuing discussion, the point was made that the formula was designed to suit evaluation capacity; however, the commercial acceptability of this standard was not known. Participants also inquired as to the possibility that the formula used had obliterated variations seen in the past.

8. Mr DRIELING replied that the tolerance formulas might be adapted based on the results in the next Round Trials.

9. Participants agreed to continue with the evaluations, but not include them in the overall evaluation of the six properties. A new analysis would be made after the next Round Trial. It was noted that not all labs understood the formula and that an educational effort might be necessary.

### 4. Discussion on Alterations to the Database in Order to Include Trash Evaluation in the Results

10. Continuing the discussion on trash evaluation, Mr DRIELING noted that the results were not included in the Round Trial database. No calculations of averages and no evaluation histogram existed.

Therefore, labs were unable to compare the median trash evaluation or its distribution. The costs of adding these features to the database software were estimated as 4,000 euros.

#### **5. Discussion on Preparations to Include Additional Parameters in the Database Evaluation, in particular for SFI and/or Maturity.**

11. Mr DRIELING then reported on the possible inclusion of more parameters in the database. He divided the instrument testing parameters into four categories:

- “Official” parameters (micronaire, strength, length, I-uniformity, color Rd and color +b), which formed part of the Overall Evaluation;
- Optional parameters (trash count and trash area), the results of which are collected and an evaluation result is calculated and shown;
- Optional parameters (short fiber index and maturity) the results of which are collected but no evaluation result is calculated and shown; and
- Parameters (elongation, SCI, color grade, moisture content), for which no data are collected.

13. In Mr DRIELING’s opinion, the inclusion of additional parameters was an open question. Input from the industry was required as to the desirability and viability of including more parameters. Several important technical questions remained to be solved. He proposed that the database be modified, so as to be prepared to include these parameters. The estimated cost, when done in conjunction with the modifications discussed in the previous agenda item, was 1,500 euros. Any decision on actually evaluating these properties can then be prepared and discussed later on.

14. Participants approved an increase of \$40 per instrument per year in order to recoup the expenses involved in the inclusion of trash evaluation and other parameters in the database software.

15. The Executive Director of the ICAC agreed that his organization would fund the changes immediately and recover the costs over time.

#### **6. Further Discussion on Developments in Standards for Controlled Temperature Variation and Relative Humidity in Labs**

16. Participants reviewed the debate on this subject during the previous meeting. No progress had been made since then. They decided to keep the matter on the agenda for future meetings.

#### **7. Update on Stickiness Measurement Program**

17. The CHAIR informed that Dr. J-P Gourlot had put forward a proposal to establish a test for stickiness in cotton, with the objective of to harmonizing stickiness testing and stickiness testing results. This project was being evaluated by the International Committee on Cotton Testing Methods (ICCTM) of the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF). The CHAIR proposed that the CSITC should monitor developments in the ICCTM.

18. The observer from SUDAN stated that his country was willing to participate in tests and to provide testing materials.

19. The CHAIR noted the importance of stickiness in the industrial processing of cotton. The CSITC would continue to keep abreast of developments in the ICCTM and inform its members.

#### **8. Increasing the Use of HVI Testing**

##### **a. Proposals for Expansion of Participation in Round Trials**

##### **b. Preparation of Comprehensive Guide on Interpretation of HVI Results**

20. In response to a question from the Chair, Mr DRIELING informed that he and Dr Gourlot were still working on the Comprehensive Guide on Interpretation of HVI Results, which was not yet ready to be circulated to CSITC members.

21. Mr WAKEFIELD offered to provide any assistance that might be needed by Mr Drieling and Dr. Gourlot.

22. The CHAIR noted that the Guide was eagerly awaited all over the world. He looked forward to its publication and felt that the Guide would play an important role in disseminating the use of HVI testing.

### **9. Reports from Technical Centers and Regions**

23. The observer from TANZANIA reported on the status of that country's Regional Technical Centre with its HVI lab. On behalf of the Tanzania Bureau of Standards and the Tanzania Cotton Board, he thanked the ICAC for its support in the establishment of the facility. The Tanzania Bureau of Standards had been allocated an office at the lab. The Regional Technical Center was fully functioning. It was testing samples and had achieved good results in the last two Round Trials. Recognition of the lab by the CSITC was an important step.

24. The CHAIR thanked the representative of Tanzania for the information.

25. Mr MACDONALD, speaking in name of the Brazilian Cotton Growers' Association ABRAPA, provided an update on that organization's program of centralized testing of cotton. Once in operation, the Program would ensure that 100% of cotton bales produced in Brazil would be subject to HVI testing. ABRAPA was in the process of setting up a national reference center, which would retest 1% of the samples received from regional labs. The Program also included a database on cotton quality and guidance to participating labs. The Program was expected to become fully operational in June 2017.

26. CSITC members congratulated ABRAPA on this initiative.

### **10. ICA Bremen Approval of Test Centers - Developments**

27. Mr FROESE presented an update on the approval of test centers by ICA Bremen. He informed that six test centers had already been approved, two were likely to be approved in 2017 and a further seven were in the pipeline.

28. CSITC members took note of the report.

### **11. Any Other Business**

29. No issues were raised under this agenda item.

### **12. Administrative Matters**

#### **a. Election of Chair**

30. Mr Macdonald was re-elected to the post of Chair of the CSITC for the coming year.

#### **b. Administrative Matters**

31. No issues were raised under this agenda item.

#### **c. Next Meeting**

33. Members decided to hold the next meeting on a date to be determined in mid 2017, using teleconference facilities.

34. Seeing as there was no other business, the CHAIR thanked the hospitality of Pakistan and adjourned the meeting.